This was the original place of the hearth. Later, however, this place was moved to the middle of one of the walls, usually the middle wall separating the rooms of the two-room house (1), or to one of the corners of the room (since γωνιὰ = a) corner, b) fire-place) (2) where a chimney was built for the escape of smoke. 354

a. Two-storey houses.

In mountainous districts, such as in most of continental Greece, and especially in Epirus, Western Macedonia, S. Greek mainland (Sterea Hellas) and the Peloponese, when the arable land is limited, and the main resources of the inhabitants are the cultivation of vine and stock breeding, the expansion of the house on a large area is not easy, due to the nature of the ground. For on an inclined soil, such as in the mountains, the house is usually dug into the soil and this requires rock blasting which, during the Turkish rule, when explosives were hard to get, was difficult, if not impossible, and extremely expensive. That is why the foundation of the house was made on the bare rock and the parallelogram of its plan was usually situated with its long side perpendicular to the slope. Thus, also, in places where the nature of the ground allowed some rock digging, a deep embedding was avoided. In such a ground, the need for the increase of space was met by the creation of another storey or, more correctly, by the construction of a basement under the house, usually under its entire surface, provided that the longer side of the plan was perpendicular to the slope, and in rarer cases, under part of the house only, when the longer side of the plan was parallel to the slope. (3) 332 ● 342 ×

Thus the two-storey form of house was created, consisting of an upper storey and of a basement presenting, just as the one-storey house, both simple and composite forms (two-storey single house, and two storey double house) (4). 342× [341]

We may often see two-storey houses, of the eagle type roof, which have either a narrow or a wide front, but the narrow-front ones are to be seen only in those areas where there are narrow

1) **G. Megas,** Θρακ. Οἰκήσεις pp. 10 and 38, Figg. 1, 8, 10, 11, 21, 23, 25, etc.
2) **G. Megas,** Οἰκοδ. Λήμν. p. 7, Fig. 2.
3) Cf. the so-called «Sterfogalaro» in Aetolia, **D. Loukopoulos** ibid. pp. 5-7.
4) See **G. Megas,** Θεσσαλικαὶ Οἰκήσεις pp. 39 foll.